THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) The following charges are levied for seeking reservation under Tatkal scheme.

Tatkal Charges

Sl.No.	Class	During non-peak period (15th July to 15th September)	During peak period
(i)	AC 2-tier	Rs.200/-	Rs.300/-
(ii)	AC 3-tier	Rs.200/-	Rs.300/-
(iii)	AC Chair Car	Rs.75/-	Rs.150/-
(iv)	Sleeper	Rs.75/-	Rs.150/-
(v)	2nd Sitting (Reserved)	Rs.15/-	Rs.15/-

Note: In those trains and in those classes where average utilisation of Tatkal accommodation during three months period *i.e.* April to June is 80% and above, Tatkal charges applicable during peak period are charged through out the year *i.e.* for both peak and non-peak periods.

(b) Tatkal scheme is available in all Mail/Express trains and in all reserved classes except First Class and AC First Class. The extent of accommodation earmarked in various trains under Tatkal Scheme varies from 10% to 30% of the accommodation depending upon the average utilisation. The unutilised Tatkal accommodation is released to the RAC/Waitlist passengers at the time of preparation of charts.

(c) Tatkal scheme is primarily available from originating to destination station and it is not available from one intermediate station to another intermediate station. Since Tatkal accommodations is earmarked from end to end, the fare is also charged accordingly. However, Tatkal quota has also been earmarked at certain intermediate stations depending upon the demand pattern, availability of the accommodation and utilisation of end-to-end Tatkal quota. In such trains the passengers travelling from originating station to any station short of such intermediate station will pay fare upto that intermediate station and not upto terminating station of the train.

(d) In train No. 5635 Okha-Guwahati Dwarka Express, Tatkal reservation facility is not available for intermediate stations and the passenger intending to book berth under Tatkal in this train will have to pay fare from Okha to Guwahati which for a Sleeper class berth is Rs. 755/- including Tatkal charges of Rs. 150/- for peak period. The normal fare for a Sleeper class berth for journey from Jamnagar to Kanpur on this route is Rs. 429/-.

Leasing out of railway land

†1650. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has any scheme to lease out the railway-land lying vacant at some railway stations in the country for construction of hotel and Yatri Niwas; and

(b) if so, the details of procedure and criteria being adopted by his Ministry in this regard?

† *Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.*

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) In order to meet the requirements of the passengers, this Ministry has decided to set up 100 Budget Hotels all over the Indian Railways network. These hotels will be set up on competitive and transparent bidding system on Public Private Partnership by Indian Railway Catering & Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) in the vicinity of the Railway Stations. The Railway land for Budget Hotel would be given to the IRCTC by the Railways with a certain revenue return in the form of revenue sharing and fixed land rental. The licensed period will be of 30 years.

MoU between India and China regarding high speed trains

1651. SHRI DARA SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that China has achieved the highest train speed of 275 kilometer per hour while highest recorded speed in India, so far, is 150 kilometer per hour by the Shatabdi Express between Delhi and Agra;

(b) if so, whether any Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between officials of the two countries during recent Prime Minister's visit to China; and

(c) by when Indian Railways is expected to put our Railways on fast track including setting up of the ambitious dedicated Freight Corridor (DFC) project across the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) (a) China has achieved commercial speeds higher than 275 kilometer per hour in Maglev trains.

(b) A Memorandum of Understanding has been signed for technical cooperation in rail sectors.

(c) Dedicated Freight Corridor Project on Eastern Route (from Ludhiana to Dankuni) and Western Route (from Jawaharlal Nehru Port near Mumbai to Dadri/Tughlakabad) have been approved. They are targeted for completion in about 5 years after the start of construction of the Project.

Feasibility studies for other Dedicated Freight Corridor Routes on North-South, East-West, East Coast and Southern Corridors are being undertaken.

Extension of Trains

1652. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Andhra Pradesh Government had requested his Ministry for extension of Secunderabad-Kurnool-Tungbhadra Express to Kadapa, Hyderabad-Nizamuddin Express to Amritsar and Kachegudar-Egmore Express to Thiruvananthapuram *via* Madurai and Nagercoil;

(b) if so, the latest position in this regard; and

(c) by when this request is likely to materialized?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) These requests were examined but not found feasible due to operational and resource constraints.